



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTES AND REVIEWS.

NOTE ON PROPOSED RULES OF STATISTICAL PRACTICE.

The last issue of the Publications contained (page 523) some proposed resolutions relating to the practical collection and compilation of vital statistics, the purpose and scope of which may not be entirely clear without some knowledge of the character and organization of the body to which they were presented; namely, the newly organized Section on Vital Statistics of the American Public Health Association.

As indicated in the Publications, the proposed rules formed an Appendix (Appendix C) of a paper, from which is extracted the following explanatory statement:—

Third, and last, of our most pressing general requirements would seem to be the establishment of uniform Rules of Statistical Practice, which should be carefully formulated, supported by evidence of their necessity, carefully considered by the special committees of reference and by the registration offices which are to carry them out, and when finally *adopted* under the auspices of this Section and of the American Public Health Association, *then they should be strictly complied with* by all of the registration offices of the United States. Otherwise, practical uniformity and comparability of vital statistics will be quite out of the question. Every safeguard should be employed against hasty or ill-considered judgment, but, once settled, a Rule of Statistical Practice should govern absolutely until repealed. As examples of some questions on which we should legislate, some proposed resolutions are submitted (Appendix C) on the following subjects:—

1. Statement of cause of death.
2. Statement of occupation.
3. Statistical definition of deaths.
4. Statistical definition of stillbirths.
5. Statistical definition of births.
6. Essential requirements for registration of deaths (reindorsement).
7. Essential requirements for registration of births.
8. Method of testing accuracy of registration of deaths.
9. Method of testing accuracy of registration of births.
10. Constitution of standard tables of vital statistics.
11. Adoption of uniform age-periods in mortality statistics.

These proposed rules, together with those that may be suggested by other members of this Section, will probably afford sufficient material for committee work during the ensuing year. By keeping an accurate record of the decisions upon all propositions, whether *pro* or *con*, we shall

soon have a valuable code of statistical procedure to guide our action, and will know as well what has not been approved and so avoid statistical byways leading to confusion.

The resolutions are now under consideration by the various committees of the Section on Vital Statistics, and their recommendations for action in regard to some or all of the propositions may be submitted at the next annual meeting of the Association at Winnipeg, Manitoba, August,* 1908. Suggestions or recommendation relating to the subjects covered, or to other matters of statistical practice, will be warmly welcomed from members of the American Statistical Association and from all others interested. They may be sent to Dr. Wilmer R. Batt, State Registrar, Harrisburg, Pa., who is Secretary of the Section on Vital Statistics, and who will refer them to the appropriate committees.

CRESSY L. WILBUR.

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

Statistical Summary of the City of Buenos Ayres. By Albert B. Martinez, Director of Municipal Statistics, 1906.

This report is the sixteenth of its kind, the bureau of municipal statistics of Buenos Ayres having been established in 1881 by Dr. Emilio R. Coni. The present volume contains an introduction of 55 pages and the main part of the work 352 pages. The introductory part is of value to all students of vital statistics, as it contains up-to-date international comparisons of birth, marriage, and death rates. These latter distinguish the mortality of children under one year of age. There is also an international comparison of eleven infectious-contagious and other causes of death on the basis of ratios of the specified causes to all causes.

Some of the facts presented in the statistical summaries are of quite exceptional interest, and are seldom, if ever, found in the municipal reports of the cities of the United States. Under climatology, the barometric pressures; temperature and relative humidity; and the psychrometer readings, dry and moist, are given for three daily readings,—7 A.M., 2 P.M., and 9 P.M.,—the averages being given for every ten days or as nearly as this is possible, to give three averages for each month. The rainfall and average velocity of winds are also given for the thirty-six divisions of the year. The heliometric observations are presented for each month, and include the hours that the sun was above the horizon, the hours that it was visible in the morning and in the afternoon, and the number of cloudy hours. The atmosphere is chemically analyzed for ozone, during the day and during the night, for carbonic acid, and for organic ammonia. Finally,

*The exact date of the meeting is not yet determined.